

NEWS RELEASE

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on October 20, 2005, former East St. Louis, Illinois Police Officer **PIERRE M. COCHRAN**, age 42, of Belleville, Illinois, was sentenced before the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, East St. Louis, Illinois, to fourteen (14) months' imprisonment, three (3) years' supervised release, and a \$200 fine.

PIERRE M. COCHRAN pled guilty on June 15, 2005, to counts one and two of an indictment which charged aiding and abetting attempted wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2, 1343, 1346, and 1349.

According to the Stipulation of Facts filed at the time of the plea and matters related in open court at the time of sentencing, **COCHRAN** was a Police Officer with the East St. Louis, Illinois, Police Department, and was assigned to the Patrol Division. **COCHRAN**, while serving as a police officer, aided and abetted prostitutes in setting up male prostitution customers in an extortion scheme whereby **COCHRAN** and the prostitutes would demand and accept cash payments in exchange for not charging the men with solicitation of prostitution. **COCHRAN** and the prostitutes carried out a predetermined ruse where the prostitutes would lure customers to a secluded location in East St. Louis and **COCHRAN**, in uniform and in his squad car, would arrive and pretend to arrest the male customers by getting them out of their cars and handcuffing them. Pursuant to the scheme, the prostitutes would then pretend to plead with **COCHRAN** to release the

customer and **COCHRAN** would ultimately release the customer after the customer was required to pay upwards of \$1,000 in cash to the prostitute. **COCHRAN** and the prostitutes would then split the cash. The conduct for which **COCHRAN** was sentenced occurred during Summer, 2004.

The successful prosecution was a result of an investigation conducted by the United States Attorney's Public Corruption Task Force, made up of agents with Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the United States Postal Inspection Service, Criminal Investigations, and the Illinois State Police. The case was handled by Hal Goldsmith, Assistant United States Attorney.